

Israel in such areas as intelligence, trade and energy, H.R. 938 continues our commitment to helping Israel maintain its qualitative military edge while creating opportunities for U.S. companies and educational institutions to benefit from the deepening academic and commercial ties that will arise as a result of the bill.

H.R. 938 also addresses homeland security priorities shared by our two countries by encouraging our cooperation against cyber threats and by advocating for the participation of Israel in the Visa Waiver Program—when it has fully met the requirements of membership. Permitting Israel to join the Visa Waiver Program should help reduce paperwork and make travel easier for citizens of both our countries. Membership in the program carries with it the obligation of full reciprocity. To that end, as the process moves forward, the State Department must work with Israel to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly in the program without any discrimination based on ethnicity, religion or race.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
HARPER

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robert Harper, who passed away on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at the age of 88 at his home in West Monroe, LA.

Mr. Harper was born on August 9, 1925, in Center, TX. He was an Army Veteran and a World War II Prisoner of War. It is with great respect that I commend the service of this brave man who joined hands with countless others to fight for our great nation. We owe a debt of gratitude to all POWs and MIAs for weathering agonizing uncertainty during such trying times. We, and countless people around the world, are the beneficiaries of their courage, vigilance and bravery.

In addition to his selfless service to our country, Mr. Harper was a faithful servant to Mt. Olive Baptist Church and his family. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he will be dearly missed by his wife, Ellen, his chil-

dren, grandchildren, friends, and community. It is my hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the example of patriotism and dedication to freedom set by Mr. Harper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Robert Harper. He was a leader, parent, husband, friend, and example to all of us. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his brave efforts, and he will remain in our hearts forever.

JEREMY NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jeremy Nelson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jeremy Nelson is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jeremy Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jeremy Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

SUSPENDING THE INDIVIDUAL
MANDATE PENALTY LAW
EQUALS FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4118, the 50th vote to undermine the Affordable Care Act.

First, let me say, I'm concerned that many Marylanders, including my constituents, are struggling to sign up for health insurance through the state-based Marketplace due to technical issues. With open enrollment coming to a close at the end of the month, I urge the Administration, state governments, and insurance carriers to come together to assist applicants in getting eligibility determinations and enrolling in coverage as soon as possible. I appreciated the guidance provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) last week that would allow consumers the possibility of qualifying retroactive health insurance, tax credits and cost-sharing assistance. It's critical that CMS clarify that those individuals who take retroactive coverage will be protected from any undue penalties for the months prior to the effective date of retroactive coverage.

The bill on the floor today is not about helping Marylanders or any other Americans, but rather about dismantling the Affordable Care Act and putting health insurance further out of reach for them. I want to be clear: the requirement that individuals take responsibility for ensuring they have adequate health insurance coverage was an idea espoused by the Heritage Foundation in the late 1980s. It was carefully crafted and includes exemptions for individuals facing hardships and those who can't afford insurance. Delaying the provision for everyone for a year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, would increase the number of uninsured by one million this year and two million in 2015, and lead to higher premiums. It's obvious that delaying the provision will undermine the protections and reforms that have taken effect and will introduce more instability into market.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House leadership to put an end to these Affordable Care Act repeal votes. We want to work with you to identify parts of the law that can be improved and develop serious solutions. Unfortunately, today's bill is not one of them. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.